

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DACCA 00260 160124Z

63

ACTION H-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-07 ISO-00 SS-07 NSC-06 AID-01 /025 W

----- 119211

R 151025Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9406

INFO AMCONSUL BOMBAY

AMCONSUL CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L DACCA 0260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OREP (MCGOVERN, GEORGE S.) PFOR, PINT, BG, IN, PK

SUBJECT: CODEL MCGOVERN VISITS BANGLADESH

SUMMARY: CODEL MCGOVERN RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT WHEN IT VISITED DACCA. THE BANGALEES WHO SAW IN VISIT AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIDEN AMERICAN EXPOSURE TO THEIR POLICIES AND PROBLEMS GAVE THE VISITORS A WARM RECEPTION. FROM OUR SIDE, THE VISIT WAS SIGNIFICANTLY INSTRUCTIVE FOR THE BANGALEES SINCE THEY WERE TOLD AT FIRST HAND OF CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDES TOWARDS ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE -- ESPECIALLY THE GROWING IMPORTANCE ASSIGNED TO POPULATION CONTROL -- AND ARMS SUPPLY. END SUMMARY.

1. SENATOR GEORGE MCGOVERN, ACCOMPANIED BY MRS. MCGOVERN AND STAFF AIDES, ARRIVED IN DACCA ON DECEMBER 11 FOR A VISIT LASTING ONE AND ONE-HALF DAYS. DURING HIS STAY, THE SENATOR MET THE PRESIDENT OF BANGLADESH, JUSTICE A.M. SAYEM, TWO OF THE THREE DEPUTY CHIEF MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATORS (MAJOR GENERAL ZIAUR RAHMAN AND COMMODORE MOSHARRAF HUSSAIN KHAN), AND SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE BDG. THE PARTY WERE THE GUESTS OF FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN AT A DINNER AND CULTURAL SHOW ON THE EVENING OF THEIR ARRIVAL AND THE FOLLOWING DAY PARTICIPATED IN MEETINGS WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DACCA 00260 160124Z

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND AGRICULTURE, AND THE PLANNING COM-

MISSION, WITH THE PRESIDENT'S ADVISOR FOR FAMILY PLANNING, DR. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM, AND WITH PRESIDENT SAYEM, GENERAL ZIA AND COMMODORE KHAN, THE MCGOVERNS AND OTHERS IN THE PARTY CALLED AT THE CHOLERA RESEARCH LABORATORY, AND ONE MEMBER OF THE PARTY VISITED THE RESETTLEMENT CAMP AT TONGI AND A VASECTOMY FAIR AT JOYDEVPUR. ON THE EVENING OF JANUARY 12, THE CHARGE ENTERTAINED THE PARTY AND BANGALEE GUESTS. THE CODEL LEFT DACCA AT MIDDAY ON JANUARY 13. IMMEDIATELY PRIOR TO DEPARTING, SENATOR MCGOVERN MET WITH THE DACCA PRESS.

2. THE VISIT WAS ASSIGNED GREAT IMPORTANCE BY THE BANGALEES, AND THE PRESENCE OF GENERAL ZIA, THE EFFECTIVE IF DE FACTO HEAD OF GOVERNMENT, AT THE TWO EVENING EVENTS AS WELL AS AT THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT UNDERSCORES THIS CONCLUSION. THE BANGALEES ENDEAVORED TO USE THE VISIT TO ACHIEVE SEVERAL ENDS:

- TO REINFORCE THE SYMPATHY EVIDENCED IN PAST YEARS BY MEMBERS OF CONGRESS;
- TO CONVEY ONCE AGAIN BANGLADESH'S COMMITMENT TO A POLICY OF "POSITIVE" NON-ALIGNMENT (I.E., ONE WHICH (I) DEALS WITH ISSUES ON THEIR MERITS AND (II) FOCUSES ON PRESERVING PEACE);
- TO DEMONSTRATE THEIR DESIRE FOR SOUND RELATIONS WITH THEIR NEIGHBORS (READ: INDIA) IN A MANNER WHICH PROTECTS THE SOVEREIGNTY AND TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF BANGLADESH;
- TO EXPLAIN THE REASONS FOR SHORTCOMINGS IN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS (POINTING TO THE FAILURES OF SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN IN REGARD TO INTERNAL SECURITY AND ADMINISTRATION);
- TO DEMONSTRATE AS CLEARLY AS POSSIBLE THAT BANGLADESH UNDERSTANDS THE NEED FOR POPULATION CONTROL; AND
- TO TEST THE CLIMATE IN CONGRESS FOR SOME MEASURE OF ASSISTANCE TO THE MILITARY OR, IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, INTERNAL SECURITY FORCES. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR DETAILS)

3. THE SET OF SUBSTANTIVE CONVERSATIONS HELD AT THE CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DACCA 00260 160124Z

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS WERE THE MORE IMPORTANT. THERE THE FOREIGN SECRETARY BRIEFED THE SENATOR AND HIS PARTY ON BOTH DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS AND FOREIGN POLICY MATTERS. COMMENTS ON ECONOMIC AFFAIRS AND ASSISTANCE MATTERS WERE LED BY A.K.H. AHSAN OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION. (MEMORANDA OF CONVERSATION DEALING WITH THE TWO ASPECTS OF THE MEETING ARE BEING POUCHED.) IN ALL OF THESE DISCUSSIONS, SENATOR MCGOVERN TOOK THE OPPOR-

TUNITY TO DESCRIBED THE PRESENT ATTITUDE OF CONGRESS IN REGARD TO FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, NOTING IN PARTICULAR (I) THE DESIRE TO INSURE THAT ASSISTANCE IS DIRECTED TOWARD THE "POOREST OF THE POOR", (II) THE CONVICTION THAT ACTIVE POPULATION CONTROL PROGRAMS ARE REQUIRED LEST FOREIGN AID PROVE INEFFECTIVE, AND (III) THE ANTI-PATHY TOWARD PROGRAMS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE. MUCH OF THE SAME GROUND WAS COVERED IN THE MEETING WITH THE PRESIDENT. (A SEPARATE MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION HAS BEEN PREPARED AND IS BEING POUCHED.)

4. THE VISIT WAS ALSO MARKED BY A VARIETY OF MORE PRIVATE CONVERSATIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, BOTH GENERAL ZIA AND FOREIGN SECRETARY TABARAK HUSAIN TOLD SENATOR MCGOVERN OF THEIR VIEW THAT INDIA HAS ACTED PROVACATIVELY TOWARD BANGLADESH SINCE AUGUST 15 AND THAT, AS A CONSEQUENCE, BANGLADESH'S SENSE OF SECURITY IS FRAGILE. AS SENATOR MCGOVERN TOLD SEVERAL MEMBERS OF THE EMBASSY STAFF, PERHAPS THE MAJOR REVELATION OF HIS VISIT WAS THE DISCOVERY OF THE DEPTH OF FEAR ON THE PART OF THE BANGALEES AND THE FACT, LITTLE RECOGNIZED ON CAPITOL HILL, THAT THE INDO-BANGALEE HONEYMOON IS OVER. IT WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONCERN OVER INDIA THAT THE BANGALEES SOUGHT TO TEST THE SENATOR'S RECEPTIVITY TO ARMS ASSISTANCE, A PROBLE WHICH HE DEFLECTED.

5. AT THE END OF THE VISIT, THE SENATOR MET FOR ALMOST HALF AN HOUR WITH THE PRESS AT DACCA AIRPORT. (SEE DACCA 140825Z JAN 76) WHILE A FEW QUESTIONS DEALT WITH SUCH MATTERS AS ANGOLA, DETENTE AND SOUTHEAST ASIA, THE BANGALEES RESERVED MOST OF THEIR QUESTIONS FOR THE REGIONAL AND LOCAL SCENE. NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS IN SOUTH ASIA FIGURED PROMINENTLY, AND THE SENATOR NOTED

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 DACCA 00260 160124Z

THAT INDIA, PAKISTAN AND BANGLADESH ALL STRESS THE NEED FOR NORMAL RELATIONS, THEREBY SUGGESTING TO HIM THAT THE LACK OF MORE FREQUENT DIALOGUE MIGHT BE THE PRIMARY IMPEDIMENT TO THE PROCESS. HE ADDED THE VIEW THAT THE PROBLEMS OF THE SUBCONTINENT CAN BEST BE SOLVED BY THE COUNTRIES THERE. HE WAS, UNSURPRISINGLY, ASKED ABOUT THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE AND USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO STRESS AGAIN THE CONGRESS' DESIRE TO AID THE MOST IMPOVERISHED AND ITS VIEW THAT POPULATION CONTROL IS IMPERATIVE.

BOSTER

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, CODELS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976Dacca00260
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760016-0303
From: Dacca
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760155/aaaabwqt.tel
Line Count: 165
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION H
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CODEL MCGOVERN VISITS BANGLADESH SUMMARY: CODEL MCGOVERN RECEIVED RED CARPET TREATMENT
TAGS: OREP, PFOR, PINT, BG, IN, PK, US, (MCGOVERN, GEORGE S)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006